

## CITY OF SAFETY HARBOR CITY COMMISSION

The Safety Harbor City Commission is comprised of four City Commissioners and one Mayor, all elected in nonpartisan, at-large elections. On March 10, 2026, the Mayor-Commissioner and Commissioner Seat #4 are subject to election to three-year terms. The terms of office will begin at the next regular or special meeting of the Commission following the certification of the results of their election by the Pinellas County Canvassing Board, whichever occurs first.

A candidate must be:

- a.) a registered voter
- b.) continuous resident of the City for a period of one (1) year immediately preceding the date of the election
- c.) must not be holding another elective or appointive office, whether state, county or municipal without resigning from the office.

The City Commission meets for Regular Meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. In addition, Work Sessions, Special Meetings, and Workshops are conducted as necessary, particularly in connection with the budget review and adoption process. All regular meetings are broadcast live and also available on the City's website, and on YouTube.

### **Election Process:**

The City Clerk is designated as the City Elections Official. The City contracts with the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Office to conduct its municipal elections. The Supervisor of Elections hires and trains the poll workers, provides voting equipment, and tabulates the results.

The candidate qualifying period for the March 10, 2026 Municipal General Election will begin at noon on December 1, 2025 and end at noon on December 8, 2025.

### **Candidate Requirements:**

There are several requirements for seeking elected office, in addition to the residency and voter requirements mentioned above. As the first step in the campaign, each candidate is required to designate a campaign treasurer, open a campaign account, and submit a completed Statement of Candidate within ten (10) days after such designation. The City Charter requires that one hundred (100) registered voters within the City sign petition cards nominating the individual for election to a specific seat on the City Commission (petition cards are available from the City Clerk). The petition card voter signatures are verified by the Supervisor of Elections Office. It is recommended that each candidate have more than one hundred (100) petition cards signed in the event that some signatures are determined to be invalid.

Per Chapter 6, Section 6.06 of the City Code, there shall be a charge of one cent (\$0.01) for petition cards in excess of one hundred fifty (150), and a charge for verification of ten cents (\$0.10) per card in excess of one hundred fifty (150).

The Safety Harbor City Code establishes a candidate qualifying fee of \$65 for a Mayor-Commissioner seat, and \$40 for a Commissioner seat. In addition, the State requires that an Election Assessment of 1% of the salary of the position for which a candidate is seeking election must be paid to the City of Safety Harbor for forwarding to the Florida Elections Commission Trust Fund. During the election period the candidate must submit Campaign Treasurer's Reports consistent with the schedule provided, set by Florida Statutes. Campaign Treasurer's Reports must be delivered or mailed to the City Clerk. Faxed or emailed reports will not be accepted.

### **Candidate Assistance:**

The City Clerk has copies of all forms referenced in this Candidate Handbook. Candidates may also contact the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Office at (727) 464-VOTE (8683) or the Florida Division of Elections at (850) 245-6200 with questions on interpretation of election law. All required forms and reports are to be filed with the City Clerk's Office. Jurisdiction to investigate and determine violations of the Florida Election Code, including but not limited to, Chapters 104 and 106, Florida Statutes, is vested in the Florida Elections Commission (850) 922-4539. A complaint form can be obtained from the Florida Elections Commission's website at <https://www.fec.state.fl.us/fecwebfi.nsf/pages/complaints>.

Any City documents that you might need to assist you in your campaign are available at no cost by making a request to the City Clerk. Requests estimated to exceed fifteen (15) minutes to produce will be treated like a public records request and fees may apply, in accordance with Administrative Policy 1.39. Furthermore, all record requests made by any candidate will be shared with all candidates.

**CITY OF SAFETY HARBOR  
2026 MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION CALENDAR  
MARCH 10, 2026**

REPORT TYPE	REPORT DESCRIPTION	PERIOD COVERED	DUE DATE
<b>QUARTERLY REPORTS &amp; GENERAL ELECTION REPORTS</b>			
<b>Q4-25</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter Report	<b>October 1 – December 31, 2025</b>	<b>January 12, 2026</b>
<b>G1-26</b>	60th day preceding the election	<b>January 1 – January 2, 2026</b>	<b>January 9, 2026</b>
<b>G2-26</b>	46th day preceding the election	<b>January 3 – January 16, 2026</b>	<b>January 23, 2026</b>
<b>G3-26</b>	32nd day preceding the election	<b>January 17 – January 30, 2026</b>	<b>February 6, 2026</b>
<b>G4-26</b>	25th day preceding the election	<b>January 31 – February 6, 2026</b>	<b>February 13, 2026</b>
<b>G5-26</b>	18th day preceding the election	<b>February 7 – February 13, 2026</b>	<b>February 20, 2026</b>
<b>G6-26</b>	11th day preceding the election	<b>February 14 – February 20, 2026</b>	<b>February 27, 2026</b>
<b>LAST DAY TO ACCEPT CONTRIBUTIONS</b>			<b>March 5, 2026</b>
<b>G7-26</b>	4th day preceding the election	<b>February 21 – March 5, 2026</b>	<b>March 6, 2026</b>
<b>TRG-26</b>	Termination Report	<b>March 6-June 7, 2026</b>	<b>June 8, 2026</b>

**OTHER DATES**

- 12/17/2025     Deadline to record name and office title for the audio ballot before 5:00 p.m. Must call (727) 453-3293; a voice message will prompt the candidate to record his/her name as indicated on the Candidate Oath and the office for which the candidate is running.
- 01/24/2026     Deadline for Supervisor of Elections Office to mail military/overseas ballots.
- 02/05/2026     Deadline for Supervisor of Elections Office to mail domestic mail ballots.
- 02/09/2026     Voter registration deadline.
- 02/24/2026     Requests for Poll Watchers Due **before 12:00 Noon (must be to SOE before Noon)**.
- 02/26/2026     Deadline to request mail ballots from Supervisor of Elections Office, 5:00 p.m.
- 03/05/2026     No further contributions can be accepted into campaign accounts after midnight.
- 03/10/2026     Election Day. Polls open 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**2026 CANDIDATE FORUM: JANUARY 15, 2026 AT 7:00 P.M.**